6. In view of the above, Petition is allowed to be withdrawn.

7. Liberty to apply.

Check on price rise

3048. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's atteniion has been drawn to the Editorial which appeared in *Hindustan Times,* 4th November 1991 under the heading "Check the Price Rise";

(b) whether it is a fact that Govren-ment have stringent check on price increases;

(c) whether it is also a fact that wholesale price index does not reflect correct picture, as 70 per cent of drugs in basket are obsolete;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to revise the basket;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the Drug Manufacturers are openly flouting the provisions of Price Control Order;

(f) what are the details of instances that came to the notice of Government;

(g) whether Government have made any investigation or study about the nexus between the official of Government and producers; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MO-HAN). fa) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Currently operated Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series with base year 1981-82 was complied on the basis of the recommendations made by. a Special Group set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangrajan, the then Dy. Governor of Reserve Bank of Tndia. Preparatory work for review Of existing W.P.I, series has been initiated by the Ministry of Industry.

(e) and (f) As per reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2087 answered on 12.12.1991.

(g) and (h) Nothing warranting such an action has come to the notice of the Government.

Allegations against former Development Commissioner

3049. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1628 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th September, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the details of various alle gations against the former Development Commissioner (PI) which have either not been processed or kept by the present Development Commissioner unprocessed with him;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the information made available by the former Development Commissioner without subjecting the same to impartial enquiry;

(c) what are the details of VIP references which are pending reply and in how many cases it was decided not to give reply during the last three years; and

(d) what are the details of assets ac quisition, disposal and business transac tions with full details as communicated by the former Development Commissioner (PI) to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN); (a) and (b) There have been some complaints against the former Development Commissioner which are being examined in this Deptt.

(c) Letters received from M.Ps. and other VIPs are attended to expeditiously and every attempt is made to reply promptly.

(d) The officer has as per rules intimated such details from time to time which are personal and confidential in nature.

Observation of World Bank about the cost of Snamprogetti and Kellong fertiliser plants

3050. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA;
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the World Bank has made any observations about the cost of Snam-progeti and Kellong fertiliser technology and plants in-stalled in India, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the quotations for Ammonia and Urea were asked separately or clubbed together for international bidding, if so, the details of the quotations from Snamprogetti and Kellong; and

(c) what are the details of the gas and electricity consumption in each of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN); (a) The World Bank had made observations in 1987 about the cost of gas-based fertilizer plants built in India being somewhat higher than those built elsewhere in the World. They did not make any comparison between the costs of plants built with Snamprogetti and Kellogg technology.

(b) The quotations for Ammonia and Urea were called separately for the first two gas-based projects at That and Hazira. Snamprogetti was not a bidder for Ammonia plants but Haldor Topsoe, with which Snamprogetti has business interests, had quoted. After detailed consideration of the relative merits of the various bids, Haldor Topsoe and Kellong were chosen for ammonia technology. Their relative positions taking into account factors like fees, estimated jplant cost guaranteed energy consumption (guaranteed works cost) etc. was as follows;—

(Evaluation for one 1350 TPD Ammonia Plant)

	(Rs. in crores)
1. Kellong	166.40
2. Haldor Topsoe	183.80

For Urea Plants, the comparative position of evaluation between Snamprogetti and Kellong done on the same basis as Ammonia plants (including guaranteed works cost) was as follows;—

	Urea Plant 3 x 1400 size Evaluation (Rs. in crores)	Urea Plant 4 x 1100 size Evaluation (Rs. in crores)
1. Snamprogetti (own technology)	567.6	570.6
2. Kellong (Stamicarbon Technology	577.98	58.12